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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS FOR MAY AND JUNE

"May is the month of garden parties and receptions, the last fling, as it were, of the social world, before folk begin to move out of town for the summer months. There has been a lifting of some currency restrictions for local subjects wanting to go abroad for the summer. For the last few years the amount of money they were allowed to take out of the country was so limited that it restricted the number who went abroad, but indications are that this summer there will be a considerable exodus. Syria and the Lebanon complained bitterly last summer at the very limited number of visitors they had at their summer resorts. The summer exodus from Egypt has always been predominantly to the north, but we have heard quite a number of folk speaking of flying south to Uganda, Rhodesia, Tanganyika or Eritrea, for their summer vacation. It seems that there are now places there with quite good accomodation for visitors which are making a bid for the summer vacation trade.

"From the point of view of the work of the Center the thing that has stood out this month has been the job of sending photographs to folk who have asked for them. The procuring of the photographs has not been particularly difficult, but the struggle is to get them through the Censor and then through the Customs so that the Post Office will accept them for transmission. I sometimes wonder what the recipients at home must think of the packages when they arrive all scribbled over in Arabic writing by one official or another in the Censor's Office or the Customs Administration. The little Head Postmaster at the Semiramis P.O. now greets my wife with a broad grin when she appears with another package all wired and sealed.

"The two cases that will interest you are those of Dr. Turyn of the Classics Department at the University of Illinois, and our own Dr. Parker of Brown University who is at present working with Dr. Cerný at Oxford. Dr. Parker wanted negatives of certain Hieratic papyri now preserved in the Cairo Museum. He gave us the numbers and it was not difficult to locate them, but the Museum authorities said that his order would have to take its turn, and as they were very busy Dr. Parker would have to wait anywhere from three to five months before they could get around to that job. Moreover, they did not sell negatives, but would provide him only with photographs made from the negatives they took. However, after we got into personal contact with Dr. 'Abbas al Bayyumi and explained the situation to him, he said that he would permit us to bring in our own photographer to do the photographing. That presented quite a problem.

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commercial photographers here in this city asked prices that seemed to me astronomical for the job of taking these sixty-two pictures. Finally the Cultural Attaché at the U.S. Embassy put me in touch with his Press Bureau man, who proved most cooperative, let me have one of his professional photographers, Artin Der Balian, who would do the job in his spare time, and lent us free of charge one of the special cameras they have there at the Embassy. As the Museum was not open till ten o'clock during Ramadán and closed at one, he had to go up two different mornings to complete the work, but, to my inexpert eye at least, he seemed to have done an excellent job at photographing those fragments big and little. Dr. Turyn had us send him photographs from some MSS in the Greek Patriarchal Library at Alexandria last month, and was so pleased with them that this month he sent along for more. Again Dr. Mosconas put himself to personal inconvenience to serve us and took only three days to have the work done and the photographs sent in.

"As your representative I attended a meeting called at the Cultural Offices of the U.S. Embassy by Dr. Dorothy Stehle of the Library of Congress to consider a project for a Bibliographical Office here in Cairo to keep libraries and other interested institutions up to date on what is appearing in the Arabic book market here. This is not a new problem. Years ago Snouck Hurgronje of Leiden asked me if it would not be possible to set up some agency which would keep them informed of the new Arabic books being published here, for often they would discover the existence of a text they needed years after it had been published. Leiden is not the only place that would appreciate such information, so I labored at the problem then, only to find that publishers simply would not send review copies, and it was impossible to buy everything. Even if one were willing to buy it was often necessary to go around the bookshops periodically to discover what new things had appeared. Now Dr. Stehle has a plan that might make possible the setting up of an office here to keep abreast of Arabic book production, not only in Cairo but in neighboring Arab countries, and supply quarterly lists with proper bibliographical indications to interested parties. The UNESCO man here, Dr. Purnell, is interested in the recording of all works of a scientific nature, for that is part of his plan of exchange of scientific information. The question was asked what interest the Center would have in this. Without some permanent home, however, we could not very well undertake such a service. The best suggestion meanwhile is that if funds can be obtained a special bibliographer be attached to the Library of the American University here, which would provide a room and facilities, and this bibliographer have charge of this particular project.

"Two archaeological announcements that have appeared in these last days of May have everyone agog here. Of one of them you will certainly have heard, but I doubt if you have heard of the other. The first is the announcement of the discovery by Kamāl al-Malakh of two apparently undisturbed solar barques belonging to the reign of Cheops. One very excited newspaper correspondent rang me up to ask if it were true, as he had been told, that this was the most important find that had ever been made in the whole history of Egyptology. There is nothing I can add to what you already know, for we are told that there is no information to be made available till the excavator makes it in his own time and in his own way. If anything does come along I shall let you know.

"The other is from Beirut, where in the Orthodox Armenian Church in a small place named Burj Hammud, near Beirut, a stone forming the base of a niche to the left of the altar, and used for holding the materials for the sacraments, has suddenly begun to shine. It began to glow on Sunday morning the 23rd after the morning Mass and apparently is still glowing. There is considerable excite-

ment about this, but the "scientist" who reports himself baffled by the phenomenon is one Simon Gueguerian, a teacher of chemistry, but also an Orthodox Armenian, so there is also considerable scepticism. Already I have had four enquiries about this.

"Professor Grohmann left for Austria towards the end of the month. Before he left I went over with him the last proofs of the fifth volume of the Arabic papyri, and worked very carefully through the Introduction to the ninth volume. The typescript of vols. VI, VII and VIII is in the hands of the authorities for publication, and that of vol. IX nearly ready, but they are only now finishing the printing of vol. V. What remains to be done on that I can easily do before we leave here. It has been most profitable to go over his proofs batch by batch as they came from the printer, for I learned a great deal while helping him. A week or two ago he gave me a group of photographs of what were said to be very early papyrus specimens of the Qur'an, but though they contain Qur'anic verses, and so are of some interest, they are certainly not from early Qur'ans on papyrus.

"My final duty for May is to attend in your name the last meeting of the Arab. Academy as they close up their year of work and make their report to the learned world on what has been accomplished. It is interesting, but a strain to follow all their elegant speech.

"Two Columbia colleagues have passed through here with their wives this month, Carrington Goodrich, our Professor of Chinese, who is on his way home after a Fulbright year in India, and Schuyler Wallace, the Director of our School of International Relations, who stopped here for some days on his way home from an assignment in Istanbul.

"The site of the solar barques at the Pyramids has now been carefully fenced off. There was an announcement that the technicians had completed their preparations for opening the place up and giving the contents the special treatment they needed before removal, but now that the Saqqara find has dropped in importance we learn that all work at the Pyramids will be suspended for the season. Attention seems at the moment to be focussed on Abydos, though there has been no official announcement of what has been found there.

"The Bairam festival came very early in the month. There were rumours that there might be serious troubles in the country, but the festival passed off very quietly without the least disturbance. Two groups of students were taken around to see the celebrations, and were very well received.

"One unusual event in early June was a Coptic wedding in the Mari Mena Church at Shubra. Nessim Effendi, one of the teachers here who has had a great deal to do with the Arabic Courses for the Fulbright people, was being married, and graciously invited a group from the School to attend. All the other Coptic weddings we have attended in past years were long drawn out affairs and excessively late in starting. To our surprise and delight this service started precisely at the hour indicated on our invitations.

"Should the Center acquire a building of its own and start forming a small Museum for the use of students who may come out here to work, there will be no difficulty about acquiring good museum material of the easily portable kind. A phenomenal number of dealers in antiquities have been in to see me to find out if the Center were interested in acquiring various types of material. In part this may be due to the fact that Mr. Forbes when he was here visited some of the dealers and they smelled out who he was and what his Cairo connections were and came along in hopes.

"Most of my time this month has been spent on preparing the text of the Muqaddima to the Kitab al-Mabani and that to Ibn 'Atiyya's Tafsir for the press.

It is all finished now, and there is only the job of correcting the material as it arrives in proof-sheets from the printer. My hope had been that the printer could work from the photostats and I could do my editing on the galley proofs, but that proved impossible, so we had to get a khattat to prepare a "fair copy" for the printer, and my editing was done on those sheets, so the printer now has only the mechanical job of setting from the sheets. For the Mabani there is only the unique MS formerly in the Berlin State Library, but now at Tübingen, but for the Ibn 'Atiyya we were fortunate in being able to procure photostats of two other MSS, one in the famous Taimuriyya Collection, both of them old MSS in the difficult Maghribi script. All three MSS of Ibn 'Atiyya had folios missing, but our luck was great in that they supplemented one another so that we have the complete text. I think the publisher will allow me a little Preface in English in which we can have the Center officially share in this publication.

"You will be interested to know that Dr. Dorothy Stehle of the Library of Congress seems at last to be getting a definite plan worked out for the Bibliographical service about which you have already heard. Dr. Ali Ansari at the Cultural Relations Office in the Mugamma' was immediately interested in the matter when I told him of it, asked for Dr. Stehle to be sent in to see him, and put her in touch with a certain Sa'd ad-Din Ibrahim. A little later she got in touch with the Director of the Institut Égyptien, and it seems now that there is a good possibility that regular information will be made available to interested groups in Europe and the U.S.A. of Arabic publications not only from Egypt but from surrounding Arabic speaking lands also. I had hoped that the Center might share in this, but without a home of our own it would be difficult to do anything concrete.

"UNESCO has called on us three times in recent weeks for service the Center could render in supplying information and putting them in contact with individuals who might be useful in connection with particular projects they have in mind. Our correspondence has been with the Paris Office, but we have come to know some of the people in the local Cairo Office and to become acquainted to some extent with the special problems they are involved in here. These local problems, however, are at present very far from the interests of the Center.

"Dr. Ettinghausen has written from Persia about the possibility of there being here in Cairo Fatimid Qur'ans whose initial page decorations may prove valuable for illustrating certain matters concerned with the art of the Fatimid period. They are busy cleaning up at the Egyptian Library at the moment so that access to the display room was refused, but my memory is that there are a few large codiees of Fatimid origin there, and if they prove to have good decorated pages it may be possible to get him photographs of them.

"You will all be interested to know of the good impression made by the visit here of Dr. Edward Forbes. A number of people have commented to us on the delight it was for them to meet him on his all too brief visit. In some ways the contacts made by such a visit are more important than those made by the Annual Director who is here for the whole year, for they serve to dramatise the interests of the Center in a way the Director cannot. It has been interesting to watch how the Point Four people take advantage of the arrival of important visitors from the U.S.A. to dramatise their programme in this country. They do it very successfully.

"The School year in this building where we have been very happily housed has now come to its close. We shared in the very strenuous final week of examinations, and from now on shall have a much quieter life till the time comes

for us to depart. There will be some students studying all through July, and I shall share in the task of counselling them and to some extent in supervising their studies, but it will be a relatively light task. Then in August we shall be on our way home to see you all in person again."

* * *

ON TRAVEL BY CAR IN EGYPT

Last winter Miss Elizabeth Thomas, an Egyptologist and member of the CENTER, drove by car through Upper Egypt and as far east as the Red Sea. She advises as follows:

"Since CENTER members are potential travelers in Egypt, car and road details will perhaps be of most use to you from my recent months there, as they would have been to me last year.

"Rather than take a car out, I believe it far better, where possible, to buy one for delivery in Egypt, with re-purchase agreement if desired. This arrangement can be made in New York with Willys-Overland and Chrysler products, at least. In my case, I could only take the car I had driven 36,000 miles, a 1950 Plymouth suburban. Equipped with jeep tires, 7.00x15, it proved quite equal to the desert everywhere, including the whole of Saqqaua South -- of course with care in driving over the softest and rockiest stretches.

"The dirt and desert roads are usually smooth or rough according to how recently they have been worked; they would only be impassable, I think, after a downpour. My speed, without pushing, was usually 30-40 miles an hour. Since accurate information was often impossible to obtain, these notes from my log may be useful:

CAIRO-ASYUT, 205 miles, W bank of the Nile, 6 1/2 hours. Two-thirds macadam, often wavy.

EL-ASHMUNEIM and TUNA easily reached from Mallawi; ask gafîr for directions. Allow dawn to dark from Asyut in November.

ASYUT-LUXOR, 175 miles, E bank, 6 1/2 hours. Road was very rough in middle section. Almost no villages; no visible "benzine" to Qena; road much preferred by everyone to that on W bank.

LUXOR-ASWAN, 140 miles, 5-6 hours. After 31 miles, turn left over canal and railway through village, into desert to right. At 14.2 miles, take left fork of Y; logical right leads by track to quarry. At 15.1 miles, oblique turn right for el-Kab, a mile beyond Amenhotep III Temple, on right. At 12.3 miles cross macadam, straight on; but it may be better here to take the longer way by Edfu station, right, because the next 11 miles, to the other Edfu intersection, were very rough. At 55 miles, turn right, W, at dead end, a mile N of Aswan.

From Aswan only the "South Quarry" was hard to find. Turn right, W, off Shellal road at English-European cemetery, drive to white-washed building foundations, then uphill, angling left, S. From end of plateau Shellal, Nile, islands, top of Philae pylon towers can be seen.

ASWAN-KOM OMBO, 28 miles; turn left, S, to drive back over trolley tracks to Temple; road never good.

KOM OMBO-SILSILA, 16 miles. Very kindly I was allowed use of the power station rest house. Do not omit quarries. Allow a day by feluqa to SHATT EL-RIGÂL, EL-HOSH, predynastic petroglyphs en route.

LUXOR-DENDERÄ, W bank, 37 miles, 1 1/4 hours. Pass Temple at 35 miles, take next left over bridge and back through small village.

HIERACONPOLIS. 53 miles from Luxor on W bank; turn right, W, to fort; watch ditches across road.

LUXOR-KOPTOS-KOSEIR-SAFAGA-KENA-LUXOR, perhaps 250 miles straight around. Well known and mapped, now well traveled. Allow 3-4 days if possible. Camping is safe, pleasant. Do not omit Red Sea shore, Old Koseir.

LUXOR-HAMRA DOM (near el-Qasr wa-'l-Saiyâd), 65 miles, 2 hours. Easily reached, ask gafîr for directions.

HAMRA DOM-ABYDOS, 37 miles following Nile curve. The "new" Sety I building makes one want to see the rest of the structure for this (perhaps 40 square feet had been excavated by April) covers little of the total space. Its center faces the wall between the first and second courts.

ABYDOS-SOHAG, 1 hour. Picked up gafîr to return 15 miles to EL-HARGASA and WANNINA. Steep climb to the former.

SOHAG-ASYUT, E bank, by Sohag bridge, just opened. Now it would be easy to see several sites I missed, then Qâw el-Kebîr and el-Hammamiya on the way to Asyut, but I had planned without the bridge.

ASYUT-HAMMAMIYA-QAW-DEIR EL-GABRAWI; two days advisable; ask gafîr for directions. Deir El-Gabrawi, especially, was worth heat, dust, climb.

ASYUT-MEYR, 1 1/3 hours. 28 miles to Cusae on the Cairo road; turn left, drive with gafîr 11 miles to house below B Group. Sand is sticky in places, easily crossed with care. Tombs are clean and very beautiful.

ASYUT-HAWARA, 190 miles, 6 hours with detour. Passages to this and other MK pyramids are filled, inaccessible.

HAWARA-MEYDUM, 28 miles, good road. Pyramid is easily accessible; interior interesting for plan, beams, rope holds. See interior of mastaba to NE for plan and construction; very large blocks.

DASHUR. N stone pyramid inaccessible at present. Bent pyramid and complex are worth the effort.

ZAWYET EL-ARYAN, perhaps 5 miles S of Giza, just W of macadam military road. Pyramid corridor and pit "renovated" in April for Hollywood movie; to be compared with the smaller corridor and pit of

ABU RAWASH unfinished pyramid. Went by village for gafîr, unnecessary here. A better road up from the Alexandria (macadam). Much more to site than publications led me to believe.

TANIS, 4 hours or less from Cairo by Benha and Zagazig; last 4 miles rough. Big site. On return saw house foundations recently excavated in cultivation by Inspector Adam. Just beyond Zagazig, on Belbeis road -- better route to Cairo -- he pointed out the considerable Bubastis site.

Arrangements for the non-tourist sites were made by Dr. Amer, his inspectors, and gafîrs with the greatest co-operation, kindness, and patience. I am indeed grateful to them all."

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A PLEA FOR PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS IN EGYPT FOR THE CENTER

Last September Mr. George C. Miles of the Numismatic Society in New York City and a member of the CENTER went to Egypt on a Fulbright grant to lecture on Islamic Archaeology at the University of Alexandria. His report follows:

"Readers of the ARCE NEWSLETTER might be interested in a brief account of my stay in Egypt. Early last summer I received an appointment under the Fulbright Act as Visiting Lecturer in Islamic Archaeology at the Faculty of

Arts in the University of Alexandria. My wife and I went out to Egypt in September, leaving our daughter at school in Switzerland. My formal commitments at the University entailed giving four courses to about fifteen Third and Fourth Year archaeology "majors" (Islamic epigraphy and numismatics, and the Islamic archaeology and ceramics of Iran), but various universities and sporadic suspensions resulting from temporarily unsettled political conditions in the early spring, made it impossible to complete the planned courses of lectures.

"However, my time was fully and profitably occupied with numerous outside lecture engagements not only in Alexandria but also in Cairo and elsewhere in Egypt (and also later in Damascus), and with research in museum and private collections. Among other things I was able to assemble a large amount of material for a projected corpus of early Arabic glass weights and measure stamps, and I was fortunate in having access to the ex-King's collection of glass weights at Muntaza Palace in Alexandria and the fine private collection of Kamil Osman Ghalib in Cairo.

"I might add that during my frequent visits to Cairo I had occasion to reflect on the urgent need of suitable permanent headquarters and facilities for the American Research Center in Egypt. Professor Jeffery was of course most helpful, and his hosts at the American University were always hospitable; I was privileged also to be able to make use of the libraries of the French and Swiss Institutes and of the Institut d'Egypte, which latter did me the honor of electing me an Associate Member. Friends in Cairo repeatedly sheltered and fed me on my visits there, and the Office of the U.S. Educational Foundation (Fulbright headquarters) near the Embassy provided me with official status, helpful introductions and such mechanical facilities as the use of a telephone and a place to hang my hat between appointments.

"But the Fulbright program in Egypt unfortunately is coming to an end, and there are limits to one's dependence upon others for both practical and scholarly necessities. This is a mild statement of the negative aspects of the case; positively, it would be no exaggeration to say that it is little short of a disgrace at this late date, and given our great and varying interests and concerns in Egypt and Northeast Africa, that we Americans have no appropriate scholarly research center in Cairo. Needless to say it will take a long time to build up such facilities as those of the French Institute, but it's more than high time to begin.

"I would be delighted to discuss details of my Egyptian year, the need for ARCE development and tangential questions with any members resident in New York or passing through. I shall be back at the Museum of the American Numismatic Society (155th Street and Broadway; Tel. AU-6-3030) after July 27th."

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THE OFFICERS OF THE CENTER IN EGYPT, 1954-1955

Professor Jeffery who directed the activities of the Center in Cairo since the early summer of 1953, returned to New York at the end of August. As his successor the Trustees appointed in June Mr. Bernard V. Bothmer, Executive Secretary of the Center and Assistant Curator of Egyptian Art in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, to be Director in Cairo for 1954-1955.

Furthermore, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, the President of the Center, Mr. Edward W. Forbes, has made the following appointments for 1954-1955

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Ashton Sanborn: Acting Executive Secretary
Gerry Bothmer: Administrative Officer of the Center in Cairo
William K. Simpson: Research Associate of the Center in Cairo
John Dimick: Fellow of the Center in Cairo

Mr. and Mrs. Bothmer will arrive in Egypt by the middle of September and the next NEWSLETTER will announce the new office address of the Center in Cairo. In the meantime the Director can be reached

% U.S. Educational Foundation for Egypt
TAGHER BUILDING
1, sharia el SHAMS
Garden City
Cairo

Members of the Center are reminded to send requests for information, photographs, or other services to the Director's office as early as possible so as to enable him to take the necessary steps before the season gets fully under way.

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LATEST NEWS FROM EGYPT

Mr. William C. Hayes, a Trustee of the Center and Curator of Egyptian Art in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, went to Egypt in the middle of June to visit the sites of new discoveries and to do research. He traveled in the Delta, and in Upper Egypt as far south as the Island of Philae (which had fully emerged at the time of his visit due to the annual opening of the Assuan Dam) and left at the end of July. Here follow his observations on the new finds:

At Saqqara, Mr. Zakaria Goneim, the Chief Inspector, had been excavating since 1952 a large mound (situated to the southwest of the Unas Pyramid) which proved to contain the enclosure wall and lower courses of an unfinished pyramid. He first found sections of a wall on the north side which is panelled and recessed, similar to the Zoser Pyramid enclosure wall. This north wall, the only part of the complex which was completed in detail, belongs to a projected enclosure which was not executed. Instead, another wall was built further to the north and continued around the site of the pyramid to form a large rectangle. On the basis of the workmanship of the first north wall Z. Goneim and J.-P. Lauer already concluded that the structure belonged to a successor of King Zoser. The new pyramid is square in plan; only the two lower "steps" had ever been built, but no facing had yet been erected.

As has been widely reported in the press early in the summer, Mr. Goneim discovered a square rock cutting in the north side of the pyramid from which a long sloping corridor leads to the burial chamber which is situated deep underground below the center of the pyramid. Since the entire site lies in a depression in the desert, humidity has caused much damage to the structure as well as to the bed rock. There are two carefully executed blockings in the corridor between which a large vertical construction shaft, probably for the removal of rubble, leads up through the core of the pyramid. At the foot of the shaft were found the remains of Late Dynastic burials. Also within the corridor, just inside the first blocking, lay two rows of graded gold bracelets, about twenty in all. Wood dust around them indicated that they had been in a wooden box from which they had fallen when the wood disintegrated. They are undoubtedly contemporary with the pyramid, and the same holds true for a

shell cosmetic dish found beside them. A few passageways and long corridors lead off the main corridor underground, and hundreds of diorite dummy vases have been found covering the floor. With them were a few conical jar stoppers of mud with the seal impression of an official of King Sekhem-chet (shm-h). Since only the Horus name of this king is known he has not been definitely identified, being probably the second ruler after Zoser, and before Huni.

The sarcophagus chamber, at the end of the main corridor, is only roughly cut out and lacks the finished dressing down of the walls which have much deteriorated. Piles of debris from the original cutting of the chamber still fill the lateral passages and corridors. The alabaster sarcophagus, too, shows signs of unfinished work. The sides have not been dressed smooth, and in the interior the traces left by hollow-core drills are visible. The north end of the sarcophagus is formed by a sliding panel in vertical grooves; a projecting part at the top has two holes for a rope hold. The sarcophagus was found completely empty and there is no evidence that it was ever used for a burial.

On the sarcophagus lid, near the north end, the remains of a large shrub were lying. It has been tentatively identified as a species of FERULA, a Libyan plant associated with the Heb-sed ceremonies.

At GIZA, the discovery of two boat graves by Mr. Kamal el Malakh, Architect in the Egyptian Antiquities Department, has focused renewed interest on the area of the Great Pyramid. There have been extensive reports in the New York Times, Life magazine, and other publications on the circumstances of this find on the south side of Cheops' funerary monument. In the course of clearance work 42 limestone blocks in a row were found imbedded in the rock, parallel to the eastern half of the baseline, and another row of 40 slabs has been discovered along the western half of the south baseline. The intermediate piece of bed rock lies exactly in the north-south axis of the pyramid. Only the eastern row of slabs has been examined thus far, and from surface inspection it appears that the forty-first block from the east (the second from the west) of this row had been put in place last.

The twentieth block from the east was partly chiseled away by Mr. el-Malakh; like all the others it was found lying on edge and forming part of the ceiling of a perfectly rectangular rock-cut chamber, 115 feet long and 7 feet wide, which contains a wooden boat in near-perfect state of preservation. The absence of cobwebs indicated that the chamber had been completed, sealed for thousands of years which accounts for the fact that no insects had found a way to do damage to the vessel and its gear. There is not an inch of clearance between the boat and the walls of the chamber; as a matter of fact, the bow post had been taken off and stands now between the bow and the corner of the chamber, and what had been reported originally to be "several decks" has been recognized lately as the sides and roof of the deck cabin which had been taken apart and stacked on top of each other on deck, obviously for lack of space. Preliminary inspection through the hole in the ceiling block, just large enough for a man's head, has also revealed the presence of ropes, of coarse fabric, and of a steering oar of exquisite workmanship which is nearly 30 feet long.

A smaller hole has been drilled through which an electric bulb can be dropped into the chamber, and by using the larger hole in the ceiling slab for lowering a camera, a number of photographs have been taken which show that the walls are well dressed down and even, as is the ceiling, while the upper (outer) side of the ceiling slabs are of uneven height above ground level. Cursive

inscriptions in black and red on the walls of the chamber mark the cubit level below the baseline of the pyramid, while those on the under as well as on the upper side of the limestone blocks are typical quarry-gang marks. One of the crew names on the under side contains the name of Chephren who built the Second Pyramid at Giza, and another quarry inscription, only partly visible, on the upper side of a slab ends in a royal name which may be that of Rade Def, the immediate successor of Cheops. An ink inscription on the upper side of a third block, however, contains the hat-sep year date of 'eleven' which far exceeds the known number of Rade Def's regnal years. Whether Cheops and his successors, or the latter only, roofed the chamber over will have to be decided after all inscriptions have been studied.

It is expected that the second row of limestone slabs along the west side of the pyramid's southern baseline also form the ceiling of a boat chamber. Since three empty boat chambers have long been known on the east side of the pyramid, the number of Cheops' boat burials has thus far increased to five. On the other hand, there were seven boat burials on the east side of the Second Pyramid, that of Chephren, and further clearance work on the west and north side of the Cheops Pyramid will have to be undertaken before the total of these boat graves can be determined. The limestone ceiling blocks are partly covered by a crude wall of Late Dynastic date composed of rubble, bricks, pieces of limestone and granite, and of statue fragments, which runs parallel to the side of the pyramid. Only after this wall has been mapped and removed can the final clearance of the ceiling blocks be undertaken. Remains of the same enclosure wall have now been recognized on the north side of the pyramid which may indicate that the surface of the pyramid plateau has been protected since ancient times on that side as well.

At ABYDOS, excavations under the direction of the Chief Inspector of Middle Egypt, Mr. Edward Ghazuli, have led to a surprising discovery south of the second pylon of the great temple of King Sety I of Dynasty XIX. The remains of the royal palace have been found here, a palace similar to those adjoining the temple of Medinet Habu and the Ramesseum at Thebes, but better in style and with decorations of great artistic quality. The building consists of an open court surrounded by 10 limestone columns and vaulted side aisles. The columns, which have 24 facets each, rest on limestone bases. One of the facets is wider than the others and its panel bears the names and titles of Sety I; four different deities are named on each column.

On the south wall of the building, facing the open courts, is a raised limestone dais and behind it the remains of a baldachin. Two undressed limestone bases on each side may have supported statues of lions, now lost. The walls were covered with mud plaster on which had been applied a lime plaster; in places it still shows the remains of magnificent painted polychrome decorations. There are several limestone piers on the walls which bear representations of the king in low relief. The building which is preserved to a height of about three to four feet has not yet been excavated completely, but on the east side the presence of a number of side or storage rooms has already been noted.

The long, sloping causeway, too, has been partially cleared. Where it meets the temple the very foundation stones of the latter have been found to bear the neatly painted cartouches of Sety I.

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At THEBES, two recent finds are of considerable interest. On the west side, about ten miles north of Qurna in the desert, a large red granite sarcophagus with sled and runners in one piece was found under the floor of a Coptic abode (deir). It is inscribed for User-montu, the vizir of King Merenptah of Dynasty XIX.

On the east side, at Karnak, a stone slab, over 7 feet in width, has come to light just recently which bears a long inscription dealing with the expulsion of the Hyksos by King Kamose, the first ruler of the New Kingdom. This find, however, was made after the departure of Mr. Hayes and no details are available yet. Perhaps it is the lower portion of the important historical stela of that king which was excavated years ago on the same site.

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